The bills address programs focusing on: (1) air cargo screening in passenger airplanes, (2) international registered traveler and border security, (3) accountability in Department of Homeland Security contracts, and (4) increased access to the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security to report waste, fraud, and abuse.

These programs were initially funded in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 and ongoing oversight and review of these programs must continue.

As the Chairman of the Committee of jurisdiction over these programs, it is my intention to work with the Appropriations Committee and other Members of Congress to provide adequate oversight and vigilance over these programs to ensure our Nation is as secure as possible.

HONORING CONNER HALL, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Conner Hall, The University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences administrative building, on its 100th anniversary. Initially comprised of a single professor and only a few students, the college was a joint venture, cultivated by the University of Georgia and the Georgia legislature. Recognizing the need for agricultural education, the college became reality under UGA Chancellor Walter B. Hill and Legislator James J. Conner. Today the college has over 1,800 students enrolled in 10 departments with campuses located in Athens, Griffin, and Tifton.

This 100tth Anniversary was marked by a Centennial Celebration on April 11, 2008, on the front lawn of Conner Hall in Athens, Georgia. Alumni, friends, and special guests of the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences gathered to rededicate the building which was erected in 1908.

Construction on Conner Hall broke ground in the same year that Henry Ford introduced the Model-T. Soon afterwards, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences released several of its own innovations. Scientists developed new equipment, including the peanut combine and the onion harvester as well as created new crop varieties, many of which have become synonymous with the State of Georgia. The college developed Georgia's green peanuts and new varieties of cotton and Bermuda grass. Indeed, one could hardly pass through the State without seeing the boiled peanut stands that line many of Georgia's two lane roads. However, the college has yielded more than just agricultural innovations. In 1918, the college was the first at the University of Georgia to accept women.

In 1941, World War II called Conner Hall, along with one-half of the college's faculty and staff into service. When the men and women of the college were serving their country, Conner Hall was home to the Navy Pre-Flight School. The building has also served as a creamery, cafeteria, a library, and radio station.

In 2003, the college accomplished a superior achievement, successfully cloning its first calf, named KC. In early 2005, KC gave birth to her second calf, named Moonshine, and the college continues to serve the State in the area of biotechnology innovation as well as food safety. I look forward to the next generation of accomplishments as I continue working with the school as it continues down its innovative path.

Advances in agricultural science have overcome the changing demographics since the early 19th century. Consider that in 1935, 6.8 million farms provided sustenance for America's 127 million citizens. Today, less than 1 million farms produce food for more than 303 million Americans. In other words, 15 percent of farms that existed in 1935 provide food for 238 percent more Americans. Such a feat could only be possible through advances in agricultural science and the many lessons studied at the University of Georgia's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 336. There is no greater American hero than the military veteran, and I am proud to join my fellow colleagues today in honoring the sacrifices and contributions of our disabled American veterans.

The American soldier is the embodiment of hard work, patriotism, and service, and the soldier who has sacrificed his body for the freedom and liberty of others around the world deserves our utmost respect. The blood spilled on our own soil and abroad is a lasting reminder of the commitment that our soldiers have sacrificed for us all, and every citizen owes a deep and lasting gratitude to these brave warriors.

Madam Speaker, our departed soldiers must never be forgotten, and those injured veterans from wars past and those just returning from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan should receive our Nation's and this Congress's unwavering support and reverence. It is an honor to rise today and praise the bravest of all Americans—the disabled military veteran. America will never forget your valor during our most trying times, and we are forever grateful for your dedicated service and selfless sacrifice to our Nation.

HONORING THE PASCO COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pasco County Library system for receiving the Florida Library Association's 2008 Library of the Year Award.

Each year, an awards committee, composed of members from libraries across the State, reviews nominations for this prestigious award. Although all libraries are eligible, if no library meets the outstanding circumstances, the board can deem it appropriate to withhold the award. However, the Pasco County Library System was selected because of its creative and innovative programming, exemplary service to county residents, and leadership in the community.

Madam Speaker, the Pasco County Library system serves as a model for libraries across my home State of Florida as well as across the Nation. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Pasco County Library System for its receipt of the Florida Library Association's 2008 Library of the Year Award.

SALUTING MARTHA AND JOSH MORRISS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON COMPLETION OF FIRST YEAR OF OUTSTANDING STEM EDUCATION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the Martha and Josh Morriss Mathematics and Engineering Elementary School in Texarkana, Texas, upon completion of its first year of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focused curriculum. On June 6 classes concluded for the summer, marking the completion of the first year of this innovative, groundbreaking school in the Fourth Congressional District of Texas.

Morriss Elementary, serving children in grades K–5, is part of a vertically aligned K–16 engineering education collaboration between Texas A&M University—Texarkana and the Texarkana Independent School District (TISD). This collaborative effort provides mathematics and pre-engineering integrated curriculum and pre-engineering electives for students, who are admitted on a competitive basis. Students graduating from the elementary school will be able to continue an advanced math and science program through middle school and high school as they follow a path to a college degree in one of the STEM fields.

On May 12, 2008, the House Science and Technology Committee held a field hearing at Morriss Elementary School to receive testimony on efforts to engage students in math and science at an early age, to keep them interested throughout middle school and high school, and to translate that interest into rewarding careers that will be of benefit to the entire Nation from a federal, school district, university, industry and teacher perspective. At the hearing, witnesses praised the efforts being made at Morriss Elementary. We saw first-hand how a community came together and created, with entirely local funding, what could be a national model for K–16 collaboration in mathematics and engineering. The vision for this school began with Dr. James Sullivan, former TISD Superintendent and current Texarkana City Manager, and his wife, Dr. Rosanne Stripling, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M University—Texarkana. The plan received the support of the Board of TISD and, coupled with